**Mr. A. L. Devassy** *(Commissioner of Police).*—I don't think I may be justified in answering that question when a case is pending.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻകുട്ടി *(Anthikad).*— അപകടം പറ്റിയ ആളെ ആ സ്ഥലത്തുനിന്നും നീക്കംചെയ്യ ആശുപത്രിയിലേക്കു കൊണ്ടു പോകുന്നതിനുമുമ്പ് അന്നതന്നെ ആ ബസ്സ് ട്രാഫിക്ക് ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നാണു ചോദിക്കുന്നത്.

**Mr. President.**—You must err on the side of caution in these matters.

## Insufficiency of accommodation to young children in Schools—particulars regarding.

129. **Mr. A. V. Moothedan** *(Chalakkudi).*—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

what steps are taken to provide increasing accommodation to young children in schools, so as to obviate the difficulties pointed out by the Director in his Administration Report for the year 1111 (viz., 'The rush for admission into class I was so great at the beginning of the current educational year that admissions to the class had to be restricted to pupils who were 5 years old and above on account of insufficiency of accommodation in some schools')?

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction).*—The question of accommodation in some cases has been solved temporarily by retaining strength up to 50 in certain classes and thereby avoiding the divisions of classes and in other unavoidable instances by putting up temporary sheds. But no planned programme has been attempted at, due to financial stringency.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know, sir, whether this temporary arrangement of retaining the strength at 50 to solve this question has not developed into a permanent arrangement?

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction).*—No amendment to that effect has been made which shows that it has not been resorted to by Government as a permanent measure.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—How long was this resorted to as a temporary measure?

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**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction).*—Three years.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know whether there had not been a circular issued by the Government in the begining of this educational year that if a class reaches 50 and there are more children seeking admission they should be refused admission and they should be advised to go to the nearest school if there is space and that no division would be opened?

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction).*—There had been a circular to the effect that in order to avoid wastage of public funds if the strength of a class reaches 50 and if there is accommodation elsewhere within a reasonable distance the children may be asked to go there.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—What is reasonable distance?

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction).*—The word 'reasonable' has the same significance to the Government as to the Hon'ble Member. It may be said between a mile or two.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—Do the Cochin Government think that a distance of a mile or two is something which will not prejudice the convenience and health of a child 5 or 6 years old who seeks admission in the first class?

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction).*—The minimum age is 6. As a matter of fact even two miles have not got to be walked. Where actual hardship has been brought to the notice of the Government, Government have in rare instances allowed the opening of new classes.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—In view of that answer I will just place a fact before you. I happen unfortunately to be the manager of a school where I had to refuse admission to many depressed class students since the number reached 50. The neighbouring school also had reached 50 and therefore a large number of depressed class students remain abroad.

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction).*—I have absolute confidence that the attention of the Government has not been drawn to the fact. I can honestly assure

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the House that such difficulties would receive the immediate attention of the Government.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—Thanks.

## Departments of Public Health and Panchayats—amalgamation of.

130. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—Will the Government be pleased to state the actual gain to the Government by the amalgamation of the two Departments of Panchayat and Public Health?

**Dr. E. S. R. Menon** *(Director of Public Health and Panchayats).*—Nearly Rs. 6,000 a year.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—With your permission question Nos. 130 and 131 on the same subject may be clubbed together and I may be allowed to put supplementary questions.

**Mr. President.**—Yes.

131. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) the actual saving of money made by the Government by the amalgamation of the Panchayat and Public Health Department?

(b) the amount of pay which the Panchayat Registrar was getting before amalgamation ;

(c) the amount of pay on which the Public Health Director was originally appointed?

**Dr. E. S. R. Menon** *(Director of Public Health and Panchayats).*—(a) Nearly Rs. 6,000 a year.

(b) Rs. 280 in the grade of Rs. 250—300.

(c) Rs. 200—400.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—It is stated in answer to sub-section (c) to question No. 131 that the amount of pay on which the Public Health Director was originally appointed was Rs. 200—400. May I know whether that appointment was made after calling for applications for filling up the post advertising the pay also ?

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